

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

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ORIGIN SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 IO-10 SCA-01 A-01 USSS-00 AID-05

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DRAFTED BY S/CCT:RPMYERS,JR:IJG

APPROVED BY S/CCT - ROBERT A. FEAREY

NEA/EGY - MR. MATTHEWS (DRAFT)

EUR/IB - MR. DURKEE (INFO)

S/S -O: MTANNER

INR/RNA - MR. FEIFER (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 220602 TOSEC 120012

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TERRORIST INCIDENT IN MADRID

ENDS

1. THE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST INCIDENT AT THE EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN MADRID IS OVER. THE THREE EGYPTIAN HOSTAGES WERE RELEASED IN ALGIERS EARLY THIS MORNING (SEPTEMBER 16 EDT) IN GOOD CONDITION AND THE FOUR TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO A PLO SOURCE IN MADRID, AN INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT WILL BE CONDUCTED BY THE GOA.

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2. THE MAJOR POLITICAL DEMAND OF THE TERRORISTS, CALLING

FOR A RENUNCIATION OF THE SINAI ACCORDS BY THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, WAS NOT MET. PRESIDENT SADAT STRONGLY CRITICIZED NOT ONLY THE TERRORIST ATTACK ITSELF BUT ALSO WHAT HE CONSIDERED AS A PALESTINIAN EFFORT TO SABOTAGE HIS PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HE PLACED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INCIDENT AND ITS RESOLUTION ON THE PLO AND ITS LEADER YASIR ARAFAT. JUDGING BY A STATEMENT OF THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN MADRID, CARRIED BY CAIRO MENA, THE PLO DISAPPROVED OF THE INCIDENT, CALLING IT HARMFUL TO THE ARAB CAUSE. THERE IS STILL NO CLEAR INDICATION WHETHER THE MADRID TERRORISTS HAD ANY CONNECTION TO THE PLO OR ANY OTHER

FORMALLY CONSTITUTED PALESTINIAN GROUP.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN, FOR ITS PART, REACTED CALMLY TO THE INCIDENT. IT GAVE A FREE HAND TO THE IRAQI AND ALGERIAN AMBASSADORS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TERRORISTS. THERE WERE INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT IF IT HAD BEEN FORCED TO DEAL WITH THE TERRORISTS ITSELF, THE GOS WOULD HAVE DEALT FIRMLY WITH THEM.

4. IN SUM, THE FINAL RESOLUTION OF THIS TERRORIST INCIDENT underscored dramatically the GOE's firm attachment to the Sinai Accord, but it also articulated the opposition in the Arab world to both the accord and Sadat. At the same time, in spite of this widespread opposition, the Madrid incident has clearly indicated that responsible Arab leaders are opposed to such terrorist actions. Algerian presidential counselor Hamadani, for example, emphasized that the GOA had acted to save human lives, not because of sympathy for the terrorists tactics or objectives. SISCO

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